

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings thereof:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (New) An input element for use with a touchpad of an information processing apparatus, the touchpad being responsive to changes in static capacitance, said input element comprising:

an electrically-conductive generally planar pad contact face configured to contact the touchpad.

7. (New) The input element according to claim 6, further comprising an electrically-conductive grip, said grip and said pad contact face being pivotally connected to each other

8. (New) The input element according to claim 6, wherein:

the input element has one of a paperweight or a pencil-shaped body; and

the input element is configured to input data to the information processing apparatus via the changes of static capacitance.

9. (new) The input element according to claim 7, wherein:

the input element has one of a paperweight or a pencil-shaped body; and

the input element is configured to input data to the information processing apparatus via the changes of static capacitance.

10. (New) The input element according to claim 6, wherein said contact face is generally circular.

11. (New) A method for inputting data to an information processing apparatus via a

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touchpad, the touchpad being responsive to changes of static capacitance, the method comprising:

providing an input element having an electrically-conductive generally planar pad contact face; and

contacting the pad contact face with the touchpad surface such that the static capacitance is changed.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the input element further has electrically-conductive grip, the method further comprising pivoting the grip and the contact face during said contacting.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the contact face is generally circular.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicant would like to express appreciation to Examiner NGUYEN for the telephonic interview of September 7, 2006 with Applicant's Representative, Attorney William Boshnick. During the interview, Applicant's Representative discussed the outstanding rejection based on U.S. Patent No. 6,252,182 to LAI. Specifically, Applicant's Representative proposed submitting a new set of claims in closer conformance to U.S. patent practice by *e.g.*, correcting grammatical errors therein and by reciting that the that the pad contact face is generally planar, a limitation neither taught nor suggested by the references of record. The Examiner indicated that such new claims would appear to overcome the references of record, but indicated that an additional search may be required.